



SID FERNANDO

Henrythenavigator finding plenty of winners

Reckless Abandon is four-for-four, is by the Three Chimneys sire Exchange Rate, and won the Darley Prix Morny (Fr-G1) at Deauville on Sunday to garner all the headlines the last few days as pro-tem two-year-old leader in Europe. But if not for him, the toast of the racing and breeding worlds right now would be the Ashford Stud-based first-crop sire Henrythenavigator, whose son George Vancouver made a terrific run from last to second in the Morny, falling three-quarters of a length short. This, by the way, one week to the day after Henrythenavigator's son Pedro the Great landed the Keeneland Phoenix Stakes (Ire-G1) at the Curragh on August 12.

So instead of two European Group 1 winners in the span of a week, the European-raced champion son of Kingmambo has one, with another placed—still not too shabby for a young sire. Plus, he's already the sire of seven winners, six in Europe and one in Peru, and more importantly, four are stakes horses and they all race in the various colors of the Coolmore group that bred, raced, and stands Henrythenavigator. This quartet, like Henrythenavigator before them, is trained at Ballydoyle by Aidan O'Brien and represents the fruits of an effort by Coolmore to back their young sire in the breeding shed, at the sales, and on the track.

A dual classic winner and a brilliant miler, Henrythenavigator captured six of 11 starts and four Group 1 races: the Stanjamesuk.com Two Thousand Guineas, Boylesports Irish Two Thousand Guineas, St. James's Palace Stakes, and BGC Sussex Stakes. He ended his career with a second-place finish to rival Raven's Pass in the Breeders' Cup Classic (G1) and was retired to stud in the U.S. by Coolmore off that effort and the popularity of his own sire, then at the end of his career at Lane's End.

Like Kingmambo, Henrythenavigator is not a particularly imposing physical specimen, but as a homebred he was kept to race and paid huge dividends. His dam, the Sadler's Wells mare Sequoyah, raced for Susan Magnier and was trained by O'Brien when she won the Moyglare Stud Stakes (Ire-G1) at two. Though she was later sent through the 2001 Keeneland November sale and was listed as a \$1.4-million purchase by Bill Farish, her foals have been bred in the names of Western Bloodstock or Orpendale—Coolmore entities.

The four Henrythenavigator stakes horses, each a U.S.-bred and named for an explorer or historical figure, are Pedro the Great, George Vancouver, Cristoforo Colombo, and Infanta Branca. Each of their dams is a major racing or breeding matron and is a reflection of the types of mares

Henrythenavigator covered during his first season at stud in 2009 when he stood for \$65,000.

Pedro the Great, twice a winner from four starts, is out of Glatissant (GB), by Rainbow Quest. A Group 3 winner at two, she is also the dam of unbeaten Ultimatepoker.com Two Thousand Guineas winner Footstepsinthesand, by Giant's Causeway, who is now at stud at Coolmore. Pedro the Great won the Phoenix Stakes as a 10-to-1 shot after the fancied Ballydoyle runner Cristoforo Colombo fell in the race with the trainer's son, Joseph, aboard. Both rider and horse escaped without injury, and the sire still got off the mark, however improbably.

Cristoforo Colombo, a winner from four starts, is from the Johannesburg mare La Traviata, who was purchased by Demi O'Byrne for \$1.1-million as a two-year-old in 2006. A sprinter, she did all her racing at three—winning three of four starts, including the Victory Ride Stakes (G3) at Saratoga. Her Mr. Greeley colt Crusade won the Emaar Middle Park Stakes (Eng-G1) last year for the Coolmore folks. Cristoforo Colombo has twice placed in Group 2 events.

George Vancouver, a winner from four starts, is the last foal of Alabama Stakes (G1) winner Versailles Treaty, by Danzig, who won nine of 20 starts and earned \$1,271,154. One of the top three-year-old fillies of her generation, she was bred and raced by the late Cynthia Phipps and also is the dam of Remsen Stakes (G2) winner Saarland. George Vancouver was a \$450,000 Keeneland November sale weanling.

Infanta Branca, the first winner for her sire and listed stakes-placed from three starts, is out of Grade 3 winner Totemic, by Vanlandingham. Totemic, who once sold for \$1,075,000 as a broodmare in foal to A.P. Indy, is the dam of three stakes winners, including Grade 2 winner and Grade 1-placed Lil's Lad.

Another Henrythenavigator to watch is the colt Afonso de Sousa, an impressive maiden winner last out from three starts whose dam is the Nureyev mare Mien. Mien, of course, is the dam of 2008 Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (G1) winner Big Brown. Afonso de Sousa was purchased by Coolmore for \$300,000 at last year's Keeneland September sale.

Henrythenavigator all told has 112 Northern Hemisphere two-year-olds of 2012, and so far the best have acted on turf. The sire stood this year at Ashford for \$25,000 live foal, but if he keeps the momentum he has shown, that fee will likely increase.



HENRYTHENAVIGATOR
Courtesy of Ashford

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